

I am an individual currently employed on a part-time basis in the broadcasting industry.

With regard to radio ownership, I feel the effect of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, which allows one company to own up to eight radio stations in a single market, has been nothing short of devastating to the state of American commercial radio today. It essentially destroyed meaningful local control over the public airwaves, which actually are owned by the public at large, not just a few huge corporate licensees controlling hundreds if not thousands of radio stations. I feel three stations per owner per market would be a reasonable limit, but eight is just ridiculous. I feel the FCC in particular should look into the actions of Clear Channel Communications, particularly in the San Diego market, where in addition to the eight U.S. licenses they're currently allowed, they also control a significant number of Mexican radio stations which cover the same market area. This situation is simply grotesque and unacceptable. This corporation may not be breaking the letter of the current law, but it certainly is in flagrant violation of the spirit of said law. I feel license revocations are definitely in order in this particular case. And as previously stated, wide-scale divestiture of licenses nationwide are necessary in order to restore local control of the public airwaves to the public -- NOT a handful of greedy corporations. Radio is not and should not be McDonald's. With spectrum space as limited as it is, one is simply not free to go out and start up a competing radio station and let the marketplace decide who will succeed (the American tradition of free enterprise notwithstanding.)

I also feel that for a radio corporation like Clear Channel to control concert bookings and entertainment venues, is clearly a conflict of interest and should be prohibited by law. What's next -- are they going to start their own record company and play only their own releases on their commonly-owned radio stations?

Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter.